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Committee for Programme and Coordination
Forty-fourth session
7 June-2 July 2004
Agenda item 8
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-fourth session

Rapporteur: Mr. Hitoshi **Kozaki** (Japan)

Draft report

Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007

Part two: biennial programme plan

(Item 3(b))

Programme 16
Economic development in Europe

1. At its 12th meeting, on 16 June 2004, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 16, Economic development in Europe, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/59/6 (Prog. 16)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced programme 16 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the programme of work of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), in particular the ECE decision (E/2004/37) to commission a comprehensive report on the state of ECE by a team of independent experts for the sixtieth annual session of the Commission, in early 2005. The view was expressed that the recommendations resulting from the external review should be incorporated into the proposed biennial programme plan for programme 16, Economic development in Europe, for 2006-2007.

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4. The efforts of ECE to work more closely with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) were welcomed, again with a view to incorporating the elements of any future memorandum of understanding between ECE and OSCE into the biennial programme plan for programme 16, Economic development in Europe, for 2006-2007.

5. It was noted that the development and integration of countries with economies in transition, in the context of the continued enlargement of the European Union, had remained a key aspect of the ECE proposed programme of work. The view was expressed that ECE recognized the special needs of countries with economies in transition who were not members of the European Union and continued to strengthen its assistance and support to that group.

6. The view was expressed that in regard to subprogramme 2, Transport, countries with economies in transition of the region, in particular landlocked developing countries, benefited from the activities being undertaken by ECE. The view was also expressed that a reference to the outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation should be included in the biennial programme plan for programme 16, Economic development in Europe, for the period 2006-2007.

7. The question was raised as to why the biennial programme plan for programme 16, Economic development in Europe, contained no reference to HIV/AIDS and its economic impact on Europe. The view was further expressed that combating HIV/AIDS remained one of the longer-term objectives of the United Nations as well as one of the Millennium Development Goals and should be incorporated into the programme's strategic framework.

8. Questions were raised regarding the meaning of an environmental dimension of security in the region.

9. Support was expressed for the collaboration of the ECE Statistics Committee with the Conference of European Statisticians and for the capacity-building activities that it provided to developing countries. Support was also expressed for the promotion of fundamental principles of official statistics as a part of capacity-building and technical assistance.

10. The continued importance of the activities of ECE in the area of sustainable energy in the region was recognized. It was recommended that these continue to receive significant support, including activities related to coal, thermal power and electricity, as well as the work in the field of gas, energy efficiency and other results-oriented activities.

11. ECE was encouraged to collaborate closely with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to continue providing technical assistance and capacity-building in improving urban planning, particularly in the newly emerging economies. Land administration was perceived as a fundamental building block for economic development, and ECE was encouraged to branch out from cadastre management to sharing best practices in private property/commercial court management in order to streamline land and property dispute resolutions.

Conclusions and recommendations

12. **The Committee recalled the recommendation contained in paragraphs 337 and 338 of its report on its forty-third session, and in that context welcomed the decision of ECE to request a report on ECE with the aim of developing recommendations to determine what changes to the role, mandate and functions of ECE were necessary in the light of the changes in the European institutional architecture since ECE was created almost 60 years previously.**

13. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 16, Economic development in Europe, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Subprogramme 1

Paragraph 16.9

At the end of the paragraph, add the following new sentence: "These activities will be undertaken in cooperation with other relevant organizations working in the region".

Subprogramme 2

Paragraph 16.11

At the end of the penultimate sentence, add the words "in particular in landlocked developing countries as a follow-up to the Almaty Programme of Action".

Subprogramme 4

Paragraph 16.17

At the end of the paragraph, add the following new sentence: "In undertaking this work, the Division will do its part to ensure that its work does not duplicate that done by other organizations and provides clear value added, with a focus on those subregions of ECE that are not covered by other organizations".

Subprogramme 7

Paragraph 16.23

After the first sentence, add the following new sentence: "The work will be carried out in conjunction with relevant FAO and ILO activities".